GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1553
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
ESTABLISHMENT OF ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Animal Welfare Board of India has any plan/role for anti-rabies vaccination and animal birth control programmes to achieve a rabies-free India;

(b) if so, the details worked out so far;

(c) whether the Government is giving priority to establish more animal welfare organizations campaigning for prevention of cruelty to animals;

(d) whether an institutional synergy is proposed to be developed in association with the Veterinary Council of India and State Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b): The anti-rabies vaccination and animal birth control programmes are being sustained through scheme of Birth Control and Immunization of Stray Dogs, being implemented by Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI). At present there is no specific proposal for intensification of the anti-rabies vaccination and animal birth control programmes, beyond the implementation of this scheme. An amount of Rs. 360 lakhs has been provided for the scheme in the current financial year.

(c)The Ministry of Environment & Forests is not responsible for establishment of any animal welfare organizations, goshalas or units for prevention of cruelty to animals. At district level, the responsibility for setting of Societies for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) has been given to various State Government in terms of the SPCA Rules, 2001.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests is however, supporting animal welfare activities of such agencies through funds provided under various schemes namely Provision of Shelter House for Looking after the Animals, Provision of Ambulance Services to animals in distress, Birth Control and Immunization of Stray Dogs, Scheme for Relief to Animals during Natural Calamities and unforeseen circumstances and the AWBI Plan scheme. For these schemes a provision of Rs. 1710 lakhs has been made in the current financial year.

(d) & (e)Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is a subject under the Concurrent list of the Constitution. The State Governments and the Veterinary Council of India are already actively associated in various initiatives relating to animal welfare.